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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Thousand Kids Will Clean Dockweiler State Beach and Form a Human "Whale Tail"

Los Angeles, CA - In honor of California Oceans Day almost 4,000 kids throughout the state will hit the beach tomorrow May 10, 2000 in three major California cities, for the 7th Annual "Kid's" Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up. About 2,000 kids will clean at Dockweiler State Beach in Los Angeles, 1,000 on the shores of Ocean Beach in San Francisco for a third year and 600 kids in San Diego for a second year. After the cleanup, the kids will create a 100-foot tall human **"Whale Tail"** on the beach for an aerial photograph. **"Gracias"** will be spelled out as a thank you to all Californians for their efforts to protect the coastal marine environment, especially the habitat of whales that live off the California Coast.

Michael Klubock of the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education created this annual event in Los Angeles with the generous support of the California Coastal Commission's Adopt-A-Beach and Whale Tail License Plate Programs. The event is part of the Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program aimed at Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego area school children. The program includes a series of assemblies that teach how the storm drain system connects the urban environment to the beaches and oceans and addresses the need for recycling and litter reduction. The children and their families are then encouraged to join the year-round Adopt-A-Beach program coordinated by Heal the Bay.

"I created the assembly program to educate the children of Los Angeles about how the beaches and oceans get dirty and what they can do to help keep them clean," says Michael Klubock, Executive Director of the Malibu Foundation. "The Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program has motivated them to come out today and make a difference in their community."

"We want to thank everyone who bought a Whale Tail License Plate," stated Becky Steckler, Outreach Coordinator of the California Coastal Commission. "The funding has enabled us to bring assembly programs to hundreds of schools and bring thousands of kids to the beach to clean up. Celebrating California Ocean Day helps bring attention to the incredible resource that our oceans are, and to ask for others to join us in working to preserve California's beaches."

The United States Coast Guard will be on the beach and in the air to participate in the event. In each of the three locations, Coast Guard helicopters will fly over the beach to photograph the human **"Whale Tail"** and **"Gracias."** The Coast Guard has become a major part of the global effort to protect the environment. Because of their long tradition and expertise in all facets of maritime activities, the Coast Guard is uniquely equipped to play a significant part in these vital and growing ecological movements. For

more Coast Guard information call 562-380-4450. To report an emergency to the Coast Guard call 800-221-USCG or 562-980-4444.

The Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education has presented the Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly to nearly 200,000 children. The Malibu Foundation also motivates children to get involved in recycling programs to earn money for buses to do beach cleanups. For more information call 310-652-4324.

The California Coastal Commission coordinates the Assembly Program and Kid's Cleanup statewide. The statewide program is funded by the generous support of the 38,000 Californians that have purchased the "Whale Tail" license plate and, by doing so, raised \$1.3 million dollars. For more information call 800-COAST-4U.

Heal the Bay manages and oversees volunteers for the Coastal Commission's year 'round Adopt-A-Beach program in LA County. Currently there are over 100 groups who have committed to keep a stretch of beach clean for a year. Volunteers clean the beach three times a year, including Coastal Cleanup Day, this year scheduled for September 16, 2000. Last year 12,000 volunteers helped clean on Coastal Cleanup Day. For more information call 800-HEALBAY.

John Quigley is the creator of the "Whale Tail" human art work. John has been sending out environmental messages as the organizer of the Great LA Clean-Up, Earth Day LA 2000 and "SOS" distress calls from the beach.

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